

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-23 have been rejected. The specification and claims 1, 10, 14 and 19 have been amended to correct informalities pointed out in the Office Action dated February 13, 2003.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 14-15 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,256,772 to Apte et al. ("Apte et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Independent claim 1 has been amended to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for storing a computer-readable module for use in a host computer, where the module comprises:
a functional component for providing a predetermined programming functionality;
an installation component that manages installation of the functional component; and
a preprocessing interface component for providing introspective information about any requirements of the functional component in response to a request from the host computer.

Apte et al. does not teach an installation component that manages installation of the functional component, as required by amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-9 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

With regard to independent claim 10, the Office Action dated February 13, 2003 (page 5) states that Apte et al. discloses at least

a plurality of plugin modules, including at least *a first plugin module comprised of an introspection interface portion, an installation program component, and a program behavior portion* (see at least Figure 2, item 210 and related discussion in the specification)...

Applicants respectfully disagree. Item 210 represents a number of existing beans (Apte et al., 3:52-56). Apte et al. does not teach or suggest that any of beans 210 are comprised of an introspection interface portion, an installation program component, and a program behavior portion. In fact, Apte et al. does not discuss installation at all and thus cannot be said to teach all limitations of independent claim 10. For at least this reason, independent claim 10 and its dependent claims 11-18 are allowable.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,256,772 B1 to Apte et al., as applied to the base claim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,298,353 B1 to Apte (hereinafter Apte II). Claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,256,772 B1 to Apte et al., as applied to the base claim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,330,006 B1 to Goodisman.

As argued above, Apte et al. does not teach all limitations of independent claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, dependent claim 4 and 6 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons, and dependent claims 11-13 and 16-18 depend from independent claim 10 and are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Independent claim 19 requires:

receiving a first software module;
querying the interface portion of the first software module to identify any resources
required by the program portion; and
*installing the first software module if all resources required by the program portion are
available.*

Neither Apte et al. or Goodisman teaches or suggests *installing the first software module if all resources required by the program portion are available*. The Office Action identifies Goodisman 4:41-67 as teaching the following:

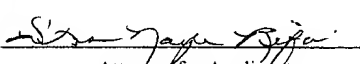
a network system (see at least Figure 1) or local server computer (host or item 123) and local computer 100 which can send and receive program code to and from the remote server 126 through the local area network 122, ISP 124, Internet 125.

However, no reference is made to installation of software modules, and particularly not in response to a determination that all resources required by the program portion are available.

Neither Apte et al. or Goodisman, individually or in combination, teaches all elements of independent claim 19. Independent claim 19 and dependent claims 20-23 are therefore allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5080.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>May 13, 2003</u> .	
 Attorney for Applicants	<u>5/13/03</u> Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following is a "Marked Up" version showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the Specification and Claims of Serial No. 09/542,274:

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 4 with the following:

The following applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and made part of the present application:

- (1) U.S. -Patent Application Serial No. ~~_____~~09/542,602 (Attorney Docket No. 044577.0002MTV0014US), filed concurrently herewith; and
- (2) U.S. -Patent Application Serial No. 09/542,273~~_____~~ (Attorney Docket No. 044577.0003MTV0016US), filed concurrently herewith.

In the Claims

1. (Amended) An apparatus for storing a computer-readable module for use in a host computer, where the module comprises:

a functional component for providing a predetermined programming functionality;
an installation component that manages installation of the functional component; and
 a preprocessing interface component for providing introspective information about any requirements of the functional component in response to a request from the host computer.

10. (Amended) A computer system comprising a first computer, where the first computer comprises:

a plurality of plugin modules, including at least a first plugin module comprised of an introspection interface portion, an installation program component and a program behavior portion; and
 a harness for evaluating the introspection interface portion of the first plugin module to determine if any resources are required for use of the program behavior portion of the first plugin module.

14. (Amended) The computer system of claim 10 wherein the harness comprises:
 a loader component for loading a plugin module comprised of an introspection interface portion and a program behavior portion;

a validator component for interfacing with the introspection interface portion to identify any resources required by the plugin module; and

a finder component for surveying the computer system for any resources identified by the validator component.

19. (Amended) A method of preprocessing a software module comprised of an interface portion and a program portion, comprising:

receiving a first software module;

querying the interface portion of the first software module to identify any resources required by the program portion; and installing the first software module if all resources required by the program portion are available.